



2024-2025 Big Red Band Boosters Parent Handbook

On behalf of the Big Red Band Boosters (“BRBB”), I invite you to join us in supporting the 2024-2025 Souderton Area High School band program.

The band directors, staff, and students have been working through the summer to put together this year’s program. It should be another great season of inspiring music, new and renewed friendships and camaraderie rarely experienced in groups this size.

The staff and students work hard teaching and learning new skills, perfecting technique, and putting together a memorable show. It is the BRBB’s role to support the band and help them achieve their goals in whatever way we can. We hope you will be an active member, volunteering your time and talents to help make this season a success. There are many opportunities for you to get involved, including (but not limited to!) chaperone, car-parker, baker, and concession-stand worker. We have fun and the band members really do appreciate what we do. The best way to start is to attend our meetings on the *first Monday of each month* in the Band Room. This is where you can meet and get to know the other parents and families who share your commitment and enthusiasm.

This Handbook has been created as a useful reference for families. If you have questions, please don’t hesitate to contact any of the Executive, Standing, or Committee members. We’ll be happy to help you. From time to time content may change so always check our website, www.soudertonbigred.org. It is the best source of information and is kept updated with the most current news, practice and performance times, directions to shows, and scores.

I look forward to working with and getting to know you. Many hands make light work and we need many, many hands!

Let’s Go Big Red!

Calvin Munden
President, Big Red Band Boosters

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Executive Committee (Elected Officers) *responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the points listed below; see www.soudertonbigred.org for additional details*

<p>President <i>Calvin Munden</i> president@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set agendas for and run Executive Committee (EC) and general assembly (GA) membership meetings • Oversee BRBB interests, functions, and activities
<p>First Vice President <i>Becki Ralston</i> 1vpres@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill any available EC or committee positions for this year • Responsible for recommending an annual fundraising plan to the Executive Committee for approval and for coordinating all fundraising activities • Regular fundraising activities include: Annual Sponsorship Drive and Car Wash in August, ongoing Restaurant Nights, Wreath Sale in November, Bingo in March, Flower Sale in April, and Harleysville Fair Parking in May • Liaison between the BRBB and the school district to request use of school facilities and services for all home functions and fundraising events • Assist the President as needed
<p>Second Vice President <i>Karen Evans</i> 2vpres@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee the running of the BRBB concession stand • Coordinate snacks for home and visiting bands at home football games - Snacks and beverages are provided to the bands after halftime;. Volunteers are needed to provide snacks and to help serve them • Coordinate food and beverages for the indoor drumline and color guard show • Identifies, and works closely with, a parent who coordinates Friday night meals • Oversees creation and maintenance of the annual membership roster and distribution lists (by working with Marching Band Director and the Google Account Administrator), as well as Sign-up Genius account and membership groups
<p>Secretary <i>Karen Duffy</i> secretary@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule Executive Committee Meetings and the General Assembly Meetings; send the meeting invitation and agendas via email • Take minutes at Executive Committee and General Membership meetings; Store and share approved minutes with the membership • Chairperson for the By-Laws Committee • Historian: Collect news articles, photos and any other information that pertains to the Big Red Marching Band, and the encore! Indoor Percussion Ensemble and Forte Winter Guard and other SAHS music programs • Creation and maintenance of the BRBB GroupSpot • Annual update of the parent handbook
<p>Treasurer <i>Carla Vazquez</i> treasurer@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track and report all financial activity of the BRBB, including balance sheets and budget reports, presented at each BRBB meeting • Collect receipts and generate disbursements from the BRBB funds. • Maintain records for Student Credit and Raise Right/Scrip accounts • Oversee preparation of the annual operating budget and coordinate facilitating the budget meeting with the BRBB President held in May

<p>Recording Treasurer <i>Stephanie Joyce</i> rt@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend Executive Committee meetings only when a tie-breaking vote is needed • Review all financial activity of the BRBB • Identifies an appropriate tax preparation service and ensures all documents are provided and that federal and state taxes are filed on time
<p>Director At Large <i>Christine Rueger</i> dal@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate volunteers for events as needed (SignUpGenius) and ensure there should be four chaperones for each game, parade, or competition: (2 for the guard bus and 2 for the drumline bus) and two drivers when needed (one for the trailer and one for Middle Red) and two helpers for the trailer and Middle Red • Brief each chaperone on duties and responsibilities as listed on following Parent Handbook pages. Maintain the chaperone first aid kits • Other duties as directed by the President

Standing Committees

<p>Uniforms <i>Tammy Aldredge</i> uniforms@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute band uniforms and maintain list of uniform assignments • Organize and maintain uniform closet • Collect band uniforms at the end of the season • Coordinate with tailor (identify a parent who can do alterations) and dry cleaner
<p>Raise Right Coordinator <i>Carrie Skinfill</i> scrip@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage delivery of gift cards from RaiseRight (formerly Scrip) • Update new users
<p>Quartermaster <i>Neil Aldredge</i> quartermaster@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain equipment for Big Red Marching Band and its associated groups • Help construct any props that may be needed for shows
<p>Social Media <i>Karen Evans</i> media@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use BRBB public social media channels (Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram) to professionally publicize Big Red activities as appropriate • Ensure social media password and recovery information is maintained, protected, and up-to-date • Coordinate Senior Spotlight features in May
<p>BRBB Website <i>Brian Divver</i> webmaster@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage content for the BRBB website www.soudertonbigred.org • Troubleshoot technical problems, work with hosting provider as needed • Maintain site security certificate, domain name registration, and ISP account
<p>BRBB Admin <i>Tara Lowden</i> administrator@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage BRBB email user accounts for EC, band directors, and committee chairpersons • Works with 2VP and band directors to ensure that current parent and student contact information is collected and kept up to date for all email distribution lists (e.g. BRBBinfo, winterguardinfo, encoreinfo)

Special Committees *for open positions please email lvpres@soudertonbigred.org*

<p>Bylaws</p> <p><i>Karen Duffy</i></p> <p>secretary@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct annual review of bylaws for potential amendment
<p>Financial Review</p> <p><i>Annual committee is established by the President</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual review of financial records
<p>Band Store</p> <p><i>Tammy Aldredge</i></p> <p>bandstore@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase band apparel and other spirit wear items • Coordinate sales of all spirit wear and special-order band jackets
<p>Designer Bag Bingo Fundraiser</p> <p><i>Christine Rueger</i></p> <p>bingo@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning, organizing, and operating the Bingo event in March
<p>Fall Wreath Sale Fundraiser (Student Credit)</p> <p>OPEN (2024)</p> <p>wreaths@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning, organizing, and operating the Fall Wreath sale fundraiser
<p>Mattress Fundraiser</p> <p>OPEN (2027)</p> <p>mattress@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only runs once every 4 years • Coordinating with band directors on date for the fundraiser with • Mattress Warehouse Harleysville • Work with marching band social media coordinator and ensure appropriate social media posts are created advertising accordingly • Provide yard signs as needed • Organize student volunteers for the final Saturday of the fundraiser
<p>Spring Flower Basket Sale Fundraiser (Student Credit)</p> <p>OPEN (2025)</p> <p>flowers@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning, organizing, and operating the Spring Flower Basket sale fundraiser (delivery timed for right before Mother's Day weekend)
<p>Harleysville Fair Parking Fundraiser</p> <p><i>Bill Whites</i></p> <p>parking@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating with the Harleysville Jaycees on parking needs • Coordinating on use of middle red and providing supplies to band volunteers (safety vests, flashlights, etc)

<p>Restaurant Nights <i>Carrie Skinfill</i> restaurants@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and organizing restaurant night fundraisers throughout the year (typically 2-3)
<p>Band Camp Car Wash Fundraiser <i>Joel Evans</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning, organizing, and operating the Band Camp Car Wash fundraiser
<p>Band Meals Coordinator <i>Joel Evans</i> meals@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works with the Marching Band Director to plan times/dates for needed band meals during the fall marching/competition season • Works closely with 2VP and Drum Major to coordinate food • Position is recruited and selected by the 2VP
<p>Senior Night <i>Stephanie Joyce</i> programs@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning, organizing, and coordinating Fall Senior Night (during pregame, always on the final home game of the season - October 10, 2024) on behalf of the marching band • Coordinating activities includes, but not necessarily limited to, senior program, senior corsages, senior night group field photo, and celebration cake (with 2VP/meals coordinator) • Works with the band director and the athletics office admin to ensure details/times/ and expectations are clear and communicated to senior marching band parents
<p>Band Picnic <i>Susan Stratton</i> banquet@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning, organizing, and operating the spring banquet/picnic
<p>Scholarship <i>Carrie Skinfill (2024)</i> OPEN (2025) scholarship@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish criteria for and organize selection of annual scholarship recipients (Spring) • Select 4 other committee members that are comprised of 2 parents of current undergraduate members that are instrumentalists, 1 parent of a current undergraduate member of the outdoor/indoor guard, and 1 parent of a graduated student of the associated groups (if a parent of a graduated student is not available, another current BRBB member who is not a parent of a senior may serve on the committee). The Band Director serves in an advisory role (ex officio). • After recipients are selected, work with the EC to identify a parent to chair the committee the following year, ideally a parent on the committee already
<p>Indoor TIA Home Show Region 2 Champs (April 26, 2025) OPEN indoor@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works with the Guard Director on planning, organizing, and operating the spring Indoor season guard and drumline competition

<p>Outdoor US Bands Home Show and Clinic</p> <p>(Sep 7, 2024)</p> <p>OPEN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works with the Marching Band Director on planning, organizing, and operating the spring Indoor season guard and drumline competition
<p>Nominating</p> <p><i>Becki Ralston</i></p> <p>lvpres@soudertonbigred.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit nominees for elected office

Uniforms

For complete uniform information, see the *Marching Band Uniform Guide* on the BRBB website. Some uniform items are provided, others you will need to purchase. Here are some highlights:

- **Provided items:** tunics, bibs (aka “pants”), shako (the hat), shako box, plume, color guard show and parade uniforms.
- **Items you will purchase:** member t-shirt, gloves and/or wristbands, shoes (aka “Dinkles”), socks, and any other required undergarment.
- **Hemming:** Some bibs and tunics will need to have hems adjusted. The Uniform Committee will facilitate this.
- **Garment bags are required.** Uniforms do not stay at the school during the outdoor season. Students will bring their uniforms to the Band Room on game days and take them home after games, competitions, and parades. You can use a garment bag you already have or buy one from the Band Store. Make sure the bag has a visible name tag somewhere.
- **Identify your uniform parts!** Everything looks alike. Write your name somewhere on your shoes, member shirts, and gloves. Tunics, bibs, raincoats, and shakos are all numbered. We track who is assigned to what number. To make it easy to find shako boxes, students are allowed to use masking tape and ribbon to decorate the boxes. Nothing permanent or with a strong adhesive that will leave a sticky residue.

Volunteer Clearances

The BRBB depends on volunteers to provide support to students and staff. There are any number of opportunities for you to volunteer in many different areas. Your first step is to fulfill the SASD Volunteer Requirements.

As of June 2014, in order to comply with PA Act 153, all volunteers within the Souderton Area School District are required to have criminal background and child abuse clearances. The requirements are described on the District’s “Volunteers” page, which is listed on the “Community” menu.

For a complete list of volunteer requirements, see the SASD website:

<https://www.soudertonsd.org/community/volunteering>

For complete information, read the “**Volunteer Clearances Guide**”, which you can find on the Big Red Band Boosters website: <https://www.soudertonbigred.org/volunteering>

There are opportunities for student volunteering at some events; this will be noted in the Sign Up Genius.

Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities

Parent participation is crucial for both fundraising and in supporting the performing groups at all their events.

The BRBB runs on more than 1,300 volunteer hours every year, which very roughly breaks down to about 21 hours per family. While your participation is not mandatory, it is very welcome and is also key to our having a successful program. **We do ask that every band parent volunteer for at least five events between August and June.**

We also need and welcome behind-the-scenes volunteers that are not related to events, such as prop building, help with uniforms, and website tasks and communications.

This section discusses a few of our major volunteer areas: Chaperones and the Middle Red and Big Red Trailer Drivers. More information about the many other volunteer opportunities is on the Booster website:

<https://www.soudertonbigred.org/volunteering>

The BRBB uses Sign Up Genius for volunteer sign-ups; the link is sent via email..

Chaperone

Being a chaperone is a wonderful experience! Everything will be provided for you. You do not have to pay admission for the event. You are there as an extra set of eyes, a helping hand, and a support. Just do what you do best—be a parent! As always, remember that we are examples and should act accordingly.

What you need

- First Aid Backpacks
- Chaperone ID tags
- Bus lists

What you do

Before the event

- Check email/GroupSpot for any new or changed information (change in report time/length of commitment, etc.)
- Obtain the First Aid Backpacks from BRBB cabinet.
- Get Chaperone Tag from lower front pocket of the First Aid Backpacks. Wear tag to identify yourself to staff, band members, and other groups.
- Get water containers from band closet and fill with water from the band room.
- Announce yourself to the students so they are aware who is chaperoning.
- For home football games, mark off area of bleachers where the band will sit with the Bleacher Reservation Tags that are stored in the BRBB Cabinet.
- Attach the senior banner to the fence in front of the band with zip ties before the game.

During the event

- Remain with the group throughout the event.
- Carry the First Aid Backpacks; they must remain with you at all during the event.
- If a student needs medical attention: assist the student to EMTs or paramedics and ambulance. Notify band director or staff member and call student's parents if necessary. **CHAPERONES MAY NOT DISPENSE ANY MEDICATION DUE TO PENNSYLVANIA LAW.**
- Make sure students uphold the Big Red Marching Band behavior standards at all times.
- Remain in the stands and watch the band's belongings during the third quarter when the band has a break.

After the event

- If you used anything from the First Aid Backpacks: Note what was used in the notebook that is located in the pack's front pocket.
- Return Chaperone tags to First Aid Backpacks.
- Return First Aid Backpacks to designated spot in the band room (may be band cabinet or office)..
- Return water containers to the BRBB Cabinet in the band room.
- For home games, remove Bleacher Reservation Tags from stands, and the senior banner from the fence, after game and return to cabinet.

Away Events

- There should be two chaperones and one First Aid backpack per bus.
- Ask students to take a moment to think and make sure they have everything they need.
- Assist getting equipment loaded and unloaded from the truck and on and off the field for the performance.

Middle Red Driver

What you need

- Keys to Stadium padlock, field house door, and Middle Red
- Personal vehicle: Must have appropriate trailer hitch and lights connection (2 inch ball and flat four or round 7 plug needed)
- Truck Driver ID tag

What you do

Before the event

- Check GroupSpot and email for any new or changed information (eg change in report time/length of commitment).
- Obtain keys and Driver ID tag from Director-at-Large
- Pick up Middle Red from field house in the stadium. Fill with gas if necessary.
- Wear tag to identify yourself to staff, band members, and other groups.

During the event

- Tow/Drive Middle Red to event.
- Position Middle Red for Pit to load equipment from truck.
- Drive Middle Red onto field.
- Move Middle Red off field during performance.

After the event

- After performance, position Middle Red for Pit to load equipment.
- Drive Middle Red back to equipment truck for unloading by Pit.
- Tow/Drive Middle Red back to high school.
- Return Middle Red to field house, secure door and gate to stadium.
- Return keys and ID Tag to Director-at-Large.

Big Red Truck Driver

What you need

- Keys to the SASD Ford F250 pickup truck from the band director or Director-At-Large (truck has hitch installed and is wired to enable towing the enclosed trailer)

What you do

Before the event

- Check GroupSpot and email for any new or changed information (eg change in report time/length of commitment).
- Pick truck up from Souderton School District.
- If necessary, fill the truck with fuel.
- Wear Truck Driver ID tag to identify yourself to staff, band members, and other groups.
- Arrive at SAHS at least **thirty minutes** before scheduled bus departure time.
- Load large instruments, props, and other equipment onto trailer.. (Smaller instruments will go on the bus with students.) The truck loading crew will help.
- When necessary, use bars and straps to secure the load. Bars and straps are kept in the loading dock hallway.

During the event

- Drive the truck to event, following the buses.
- Park the truck at designated location for unloading.
- With truck crew, unload truck.
- Move the truck to designated parking space if required.
- Return the truck to the loading location and (with the crew) reload the truck.

After the event

- Return to SAHS, and (with the crew) unload the truck.
- Return bars and/or straps to the loading dock hallway.
- Use the broom in the loading dock hallway to sweep out the trailer.
- Fill with fuel, if necessary. Truck is to be returned with the same amount of fuel as when it was picked up.
- Return the truck to the same location and condition as you picked it up.
- Return the keys, ID tag, gas receipt, and gas card to the Director-at-Large.

Tips for New Members / Parents

Please plan on attending football games and competitions to offer support and a rousing cheer when our kids come onto the field. There's always a bunch of "band groupies" sitting near the band at home football games and near the 40-yard line nearest the scoreboard at competitions. Just look for the RED!

Ensure you have joined the GroupSpot for BRBB and Marching Band.

Check out the BRBB website www.soudertonbigred.org

Follow BRBB on Instagram (@sahsbrmb), Twitter/X (@soudertonbigred), and/or Facebook (Souderton Big Red Band Boosters).

BRBB in Facebook Big Red Band Boosters page: www.facebook.com/soudertonduckderbyrace

- A public page with general, publicity-oriented band information.

Souderton BRBB Parents group: www.facebook.com/groups/brbbparents

- Closed group managed by parents (not the BRBB).
- Send a join request with the name of your student.

Souderton Big Red Marching Band group: www.facebook.com/groups/1451982721676623

- Closed group run by the student band president.
- It contains the season's schedule and other vital information for students.
- This is the group for students to join.

Cold Weather

- Band members learn quickly how to wear layers under their uniforms.
- Be prepared for cold weather: thermal shirts (such as Under Armour; but no turtlenecks, they show above the tunic collar), leggings (no sweat pants, they are too bulky under the uniform), warmer socks, and so on.
- Hand warmers (available at local sporting goods stores) can be great on cold nights.
- Students may also want to bring a blanket for the bus ride home on cold nights.

Funding

- The BRBB must raise approximately \$30,000 annually to cover budgeted expenses. This is done via concession sales, home shows, and fundraising activities.

Meals

- **Band Camp:** Students need to bring their own dinners and beverages. Use insulated containers as neither microwaves nor refrigerators are available.
- **Game days:** The BRBB may provide a dinner on game days when the students need to stay after school. To see what meal will be served when watch your email for communication and updates from the Band Meals coordinator,

Participation Fee

- The BRBB charges a **\$100-per-student outdoor membership fee** to help defray the operating costs of the organization (may be subject to change).
- This fee is collected at the Parent Information Meeting the first evening of Band Camp and can be paid by check,

Student Credit, or Raise Right (Scrip) credit..

- For those participating in the indoor season, there will be an additional membership fee of \$50 due in January (may be subject to change).

Payments

- Make checks payable to “BRBB” or “Big Red Band Boosters”.

Pick-up and Drop-off

- Pick-up and drop-off of band members is on the Lower Road side of the school. Under no circumstances are parents to use the side entrance near the band room for pick-up and drop off, by order of the fire chief.
- In addition, parking in the loading dock area is strictly prohibited.

Big Red Box

- In the Band Room, outside the office, there is a large red metal box: this is the Big Red Box.
- Any money or order forms to be submitted to the BRBB may be placed in that box.
- Students: Please do not put paperwork for Directors here; they cannot open the Red Box.

Student Credit

- Students can participate in fundraising activities (fall wreath sale, and spring flower sale) in order to earn Student Credit that will offset specified band expenses. Contact the Treasurer (treasurer@soudertonbigred.org) to determine your current student credit balance.

Football Games

Game Days

- Band members are encouraged (not required) to dress up for school on the day of a football game. (The same is true for the school day before a competition if there is no football game that day.) This can include dress shoes, slacks, shirts; ties and jackets, dresses or skirts. Questions? Have them ask their captain.
- If something is forgotten: extras *may* be available for purchase from the Uniform Chairperson if present.
- Students are not allowed access to their cell phones while in uniform except during the bus ride back to the school.

During the Game

- For home games, performance time is pre-game most of the time! The band can take the field as early as 6:30, though it could be closer to 6:45 for a 7 pm game. Get there early or you might miss the show.
- Spectators must pre-purchase tickets for home games online: <https://sahs.soudertonsd.org/athletics/tickets-passes>
- Away games: The band typically performs at half-time.
- The band sits in a reserved section in the stands and play stand tunes during the game.
- The band has the third quarter off and members are free to walk around the stadium area, visit with the other band, and get snacks and drinks at the concession stand. It is good for students to have at least \$10 for concessions. (The uniform bibber has a pocket.)

After the Game

- If you go to an away game: Plan on driving directly from the game back to SAHS to pick up your student. The band usually, but not always, arrives within 5-10 minutes of when you arrive.
- The Band Director may hold the students for a short wrap-up meeting before dismissing them.
- If you do not go to the football game: make sure your student has arranged for a ride or ask them to contact you with an ETA.
- When possible, staff may post the bus departure time on GroupSpot to let you know the anticipated arrival time of the buses at SAHS.

Competitions

- Competitions are usually Saturday afternoons or evenings. Routines and procedures for competitions are similar to football games.

Students need to wear weather-appropriate practice clothes and bring:

- Everything they normally bring for a football game.
- Street clothes to wear during non-uniform time at the competition.

Competition Day: Students

- Students will be given a “report time” and a “return time” each week: The report time is the time the students need to be in the Band Room ready to go. Remember: Early is On time, On time is Late, Late is Left behind! **The return time is the APPROXIMATE time they anticipate getting back to school. Please understand the return time can vary for a variety of reasons.**
- There may be a short practice at the school.
- There may be a short dinner break before students change into uniforms and board the buses.
- At the host school, the band will warm up before it is their turn to perform.
- After performing, the students may change into “street clothes” (jeans, sweatshirts, and so on), so be sure they bring a *warm* change of clothes (it gets cold even in September in the evening) including shoes (sneakers suggested). Remember, they sit in the stands for the entire night. Many kids bring blankets to help keep warm.
- Students may wear their Big Red Marching Band raincoat as their top coat. They are allowed to wear sweaters or lighter coats underneath on those cold nights.
- Students are allowed to visit the concession stand after they perform, if time allows. It is good for them to have ~~\$5 to~~ at least \$10. They will then sit in the stands as a band and watch the remaining bands perform.
- It is customary for visiting bands to stand at attention while the home band performs.

Competition Day: Parents

- The time for our performance at competitions can change, even on that day, so make sure to get there early to ensure you don’t miss our kids.
- Remember our competitions run into November and you will be sitting on bleachers in football stadiums. Dress warmly and bring a blanket!
- The BRBB will announce if tickets are available for sale ahead of time. Otherwise, they are available at the gate. Sometimes there is a price break for buying early. Prices for high school competitions are generally \$10 to \$15 per person. Championship competitions at the end of the season usually run \$20 to \$25 per person.
- If you go to a competition: plan on driving directly back to SAHS to pick up your students. The band usually arrives within 5-10 minutes after you arrive.
- The Band Director may hold the students for a short wrap-up meeting before dismissing them.
- When possible, staff will post the bus departure time on GroupSpot to let you know the anticipated arrival time at SAHS.
- At competitions, the host band does a variety of things to raise money for their organization. Please support them. Purchase candy, flower, and air grams *prior* to our group performing for best selection.

Ways to support the host band and our group:

- **Candy Grams.** These generally sell for \$1-\$2 and you write a message to send with candy to your child or to anyone you wish who is associated with the group (instructors, other kids, and so on). They receive a bag with the candy at the final retreat following conclusion of the competition. This is a great way to give a pat on the back to the students. They love getting “presents” after the performance.
- **Flower Grams.** Same idea as Candy Grams but they are fresh or silk flowers sold at a variety of prices.
- **Air Grams.** Not at all competitions. This works differently than the candy or flower grams because there is nothing tangible with this. Just prior to your group performing, they announce the air grams over the public address system. An example might be: “Good luck, Susie. Love, Mom and Dad.” Sometimes they are funny or inside jokes to people. Generally \$1 to \$5 per message.
- **Food.** You can find an assortment of food to buy at competitions from hot dogs and pizza to drinks and snacks. Great idea instead of cooking!
- **Program Books.** Gives a listing of competing groups with their time of performance along with other information.